



Transcript of the Hearing of

Date: January 20, 2015

Volume: II

Case: SITING COUNCIL - DOCKET 453 - PUBLIC MEETING

Printed On: January 31, 2015

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Phone: (866) 534-3383

Fax: (877) 534-3383

Email: info@unitedreporters.com

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STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

Docket No. 453

American Tower Corporation and
New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC, Application
for a Certificate of Environmental
Compatibility and Public Need for the
Construction, Maintenance, and Operation of a
Telecommunications Facility Located at
Manchester Tax Assessor Map 133,
Block 3700, Lot 701, 701 Lydall Street,
Manchester, Connecticut

Public Hearing held at the Lincoln
Center Hearing Room, 494 Main Street,
Manchester, Connecticut, Tuesday, January 20,
2015, beginning at 7:00 p.m.

H e l d B e f o r e:

ROBERT STEIN, Chairperson

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1 public statements are not subject to
2 questions from parties or the Council, and
3 members of the public making statements may
4 not ask questions of the parties or Council.
5 These statements will become part of the
6 record for Council consideration. A sign-up
7 sheet is available for those who would like
8 to participate, again, on my left.
9 And as a reminder to all,
10 off-the-record communication with a member of
11 the Council or a member of the Council's
12 staff upon the merits of this application is
13 prohibited by law.
14 I also wish to note for those
15 who are here and for the benefit of your
16 friends and neighbors who are unable to join
17 us for the public comment session, that you
18 or they may send written statements to the
19 Council within 30 days of the date hereof and
20 such written statements will be given the
21 same weight as if spoken at the hearing.
22 We again ask each person
23 making a public statement in this proceeding
24 to confine his or her statement to the
25 subject matter before the Council and to

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1 avoid unreasonable repetition so that we may
2 hear all of your concerns and of your
3 neighbors.
4 Please be advised that the
5 Council cannot answer questions from the
6 public about the proposal. A verbatim
7 transcript will be made of the hearing and
8 deposited at the Manchester, Bolton and
9 Vernon Town Clerks' office for the
10 convenience of the public.
11 Before calling on members of
12 the public to make statements, I request that
13 the Applicant make a brief presentation
14 describing the facility.
15 MS. CHIOCCHIO: Thank you,
16 Chairman.
17 Good evening. But if
18 Ms. Lucia Chiocchio. I'm with Cuddy & Feder,
19 and we represent the applicants American
20 Tower Corporation and AT&T.
21 I will turn the mic over to
22 Mr. Scott Chasse of All Points technology.
23 He is the site civil engineer for the
24 proposal.
25 THE WITNESS (Chasse): Thank

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1 you.
2 Good evening and welcome to
3 the public hearing portion of the Connecticut
4 Siting Council's proceedings for American
5 Towers proposed wireless telecommunications
6 facility here at 701 Lydall Street in
7 Manchester.
8 As you can see from the board
9 that I have here, the proposed facility is
10 located in the north central portion of the
11 existing site, approximately 145 feet off of
12 the western property line. Access to the
13 proposed facility will originate from the
14 existing curb cut at Lydall Street -- which
15 if you'll bear with me here. For your
16 reference, north in these are to the right --
17 will originate from the existing curb cut on
18 Lydall Street and meandering along an
19 existing dirt path. It matches here and
20 comes to this direction. And then comes into
21 an open field and approaches the proposed
22 telecommunications facility.
23 The proposed facility consists
24 of a 50-by-50 fenced-in compound area with an
25 8-foot high chain-link fence. It's situated

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1 within a hundred by a hundred lease area. As
2 indicated previously, the proposed access
3 road, along with the utilities underground,
4 will come up and meander along the road and
5 terminate at the utility laydown area
6 adjacent to the proposed 50-by-50 compound.
7 Inside the 50-by-50 compound
8 is room for AT&T's proposed
9 11-and-a-half-by-24-foot equipment shelter
10 with an exterior generator in addition to
11 provisions for additional carriers. In this
12 instance, we're showing a 12-by-30 additional
13 equipment shelter.
14 In the center of the tower --
15 of the compound is the proposal 104 foot
16 monopole tower, which will have AT&T's
17 antennas and appurtenances at the very top of
18 them with a centerline of antennas at a
19 hundred feet above grade, and provisions will
20 be made for the tower to accommodate
21 additional carriers as shown immediately
22 below there.
23 Thank you.
24 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. Thank
25 you.

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1 We'll now call from the list
2 for the public. The first speaker is the
3 First Selectman, Mr. Moran -- or Mayor, I
4 apologize if I have your --
5 MAYOR JAY MORAN: I've sat in
6 that seat and I've been called worse, so
7 thank you.
8 Good evening. Good evening to
9 the Siting Council and welcome to Manchester
10 and thank you for eating your dinner here in
11 Manchester. We appreciate you spending money
12 here and welcome to our public.
13 I sit here tonight as the
14 mayor of Manchester. In the last week, I
15 happened to be out of town on a convention
16 and I received more phone calls at my home
17 and more e-mails than I have while I've been
18 in term. And they've been good, good phone
19 calls. People concerned about their
20 neighborhood, people concerned on both sides
21 of the argument here.
22 I do see -- I live in a
23 neighborhood where we had something put in
24 our neighborhood and the neighborhood came
25 together and they felt it was wrong for the

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1 neighborhood. And I do see the argument of
2 the members and the neighbors in that
3 neighborhood who feel that a cell tower
4 possibly could bring down the value of their
5 property. I get that argument. I see the
6 concerns of aesthetically what it will do to
7 the neighborhood.
8 I also have received, not as
9 many phone calls and messages, but from
10 people in the Meadowbrook who say we need a
11 cell phone tower in this area because we
12 don't have cell for us. As a matter of fact,
13 someone in that neighborhood tried to call
14 me, and their call got lost. So they proved
15 their point.
16 So I'm here tonight to ask you
17 to consider. I know there was some
18 conversation earlier this afternoon that in
19 my business of government sometimes -- and
20 they say politics is the art of compromise --
21 we have a neighborhood that believes it
22 shouldn't be in our backwoods. We also have
23 a neighborhood that says we need cell phone
24 tower service.
25 I know there's a land trust

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1 not too far from this area that, maybe,
2 possibly, we could put a tower there, and
3 maybe there's other areas nearby. So I know
4 the importance of having a cell tower and
5 cell service for our community, but I
6 believe, most importantly, the people in the
7 Lydall area would be happier if we moved it
8 over, maybe not too far, possibly the land
9 trust.
10 So I'd hope after you hear the
11 public tonight and some of the comments from
12 our state senator and our state
13 representative's who did a great job this
14 afternoon, that you consider alternate place
15 to possibly put the tower that would serve
16 all and keep all members -- and you know it's
17 hard. I know it's hard to keep everyone
18 happy in the community, but I think the art
19 of compromise here might work and if we could
20 possibly have some conversation with the land
21 trust or other areas nearby that we could
22 place this tower so that the people who
23 aren't getting cell phone service will get
24 service in the end.
25 So I thank you for this, this

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1 evening. I thank the citizens for coming out
2 and caring about their neighborhood and their
3 community, whether you're in the area without
4 cell phone tower service or the area that's
5 looking to not have a cell phone tower.
6 So thank you. And again,
7 thank you for listening. Appreciate it.
8 Thank you.
9 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you
10 very much.
11 And we had a good dinner, so
12 thank you also for that.
13 Representative Luxenberg.
14 REP. LUXENBERG: Thank you.
15 It's nice to see you all again this evening.
16 And just for the public to be aware, I have
17 requested and did receive intervenor status,
18 so I had the opportunity to be part of the
19 hearing this afternoon and ask the Applicants
20 a few questions.
21 I think that after hearing
22 this afternoon, my ask and my hope is that
23 the Siting Council will explore all potential
24 alternative scenarios to put a cell phone
25 tower. I'm not going to deny that we do need

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1 better cell phone coverage in that area,
2 although AT&T does indicate that it is a full
3 coverage zone based on their coverage maps.
4 But I do really take issue with such an
5 intrusion into a residential area that is
6 truly out of character for the area.
7 The Lydall Woods community is
8 a PUD in Manchester. I know there was a
9 question about that earlier. It's a
10 168-unit -- planned unit development, and I
11 hope I got the acronym right for -- it's
12 basically a condo, similar to a condo
13 association. So I know from where we were
14 standing today at the site visit it's hard to
15 tell that they are not single-unit homes.
16 That there are a few that stand alone, but
17 most of them are basically row-style homes.
18 And the people who were there are very proud
19 of the community in which they live.
20 Many of them have moved there
21 for the fact that the Manchester Land
22 Conservation Trust does have land in the
23 area. And there's also very specific use
24 that even exists in the condo documents for
25 open space usage in that area that does

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1 include solely passive use.
2 And so to put a silo or a
3 monopole within, you know, mere feet of 277
4 Deer Run Trail, I think, would be egregious
5 to those that live in that area, and I do
6 hope that the Siting Council will look to
7 other potential areas.
8 In terms of what we spoke
9 about earlier with the access road coming in
10 down Deer Run Trail, I worry that that may be
11 the worst potential option for this community
12 because it is a cul de sac. The only people
13 who typically come down the community are
14 those in which live in the community. So
15 there are family cars. It's a family
16 neighborhood. People move there with their
17 young children, and they want to grow a
18 family there.
19 Certainly there's concerns
20 about diminished property value. The
21 proximity and the use to the Manchester Land
22 Conservation Trust, as we've heard, and I
23 just really would hope that the Siting
24 Council would look at that. And -- but, too,
25 I want it to be noted that I'm not denying

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1 that there is a need for that in that area
2 and that I believe that all the people in
3 this room, this evening, are looking to find
4 some sort of alternative option.
5 Thank you again for your time
6 tonight.
7 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you.
8 Jim Stevenson.
9 JIM STEVENSON: Good evening.
10 My name is Jim Stevenson. I live at 35
11 Chatham Drive in Manchester, which is
12 commonly known as the Meadowbrook
13 development.
14 I have two mobile devices. I
15 have an AT&T for my corporate device and a
16 Verizon device. Both of them don't have any
17 cell service at my residence. My Verizon
18 has -- because I have a signal booster in my
19 home, my Verizon gets maybe one or two bars.
20 That's about it. Other than that, I get no
21 service. AT&T is, I would say, 95 percent no
22 service at all.
23 And it's not uncommon in my
24 area, in my neighborhood, to see my neighbors
25 on the street on their decks, in their yards

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1 trying to grab a signal. There is no signal
2 in our neighborhood at all. I have an
3 elderly mother that lives on Ambassador
4 Drive, which is about a half a mile from my
5 home. She gets no signal. If she ever had
6 to call me, if she ever had to call 9-1-1,
7 she wouldn't be able to do it. I have a
8 sister that lives about three quarters of a
9 mile from me. She gets no signal. She has
10 her kids come to visit who live out of town,
11 they get no signal.
12 In the newspapers and in
13 social media, there's been a couple different
14 things brought up both health issues and
15 aesthetics. I did some research with the
16 American Cancer Society. There's no data
17 available regarding health issues of cell
18 towers in neighborhoods. In Manchester, we
19 have cell towers all over town. We have --
20 in some of the most populated areas of town,
21 we have cell towers.
22 We have one near the police
23 station, which is in a very heavily populated
24 area of town that has a middle school
25 virtually 50 feet from it, a high school

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1 which is about two blocks from it, and an
2 elementary school which is about half a mile
3 from it. So you probably have about 3,000
4 children there everyday. I haven't heard of
5 any health issues regarding the cell tower
6 that's been there.

7 We have a cell tower right
8 over here off of Main Street. It's actually
9 in a church steeple. It's been there for
10 about 12 years. I haven't heard of any
11 health issues, and that's a very heavily
12 populated area of town.

13 We have a cell tower on Slater
14 Street in the Buckland area, probably have
15 3,000 to 4,000 apartments in the Buckland
16 area. I haven't heard of any health issues.
17 And I'm sure if there was health issues, we'd
18 be hearing about it.

19 And on the flip side of the
20 health issue, what about all the people in my
21 neighborhood, in my mother's neighborhood, my
22 sister's neighborhood, in that whole area of
23 town, what if they needed to call 9-1-1?
24 What if they had a health issue and weren't
25 able to reach the services that they need?

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1 People don't have landlines anymore. I don't
2 have a personal landline in my home, and I
3 know a lot people don't have landlines. So
4 how would they call 9-1-1. So we're being
5 denied -- actually, being denied 9-1-1
6 service in our neighborhood because of the
7 lack of cell service.

8 And just to go onto the
9 aesthetic issue, today, I'm here as a private
10 citizen but I do serve -- I am the chairman
11 of the Zoning Board of Manchester. For the
12 last 22 years, I sit once a month at the
13 desk. And I'm not telling the commission how
14 to do their job -- and I know you guys do
15 this all over the state -- but there's
16 probably a compromise that can be made.

17 You know, when I hear
18 applications, once we find a hardship and the
19 neighbors come out, we always try to
20 negotiate some type of compromise with the
21 neighbors to make whatever their gripe is to
22 try to smooth that out, and so I'm sure you
23 guys can find something, whether it's maybe
24 disguising the cell tower. I've seen on the
25 Mass Pike cell towers that look like the

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1 flagpoles, cell towers that look like trees.
2 They look pretty good. So maybe you could do
3 that or as Mayor Moran, Representative
4 Luxenberg has stated, maybe look in the area
5 and see if there's another location that
6 would be appropriate for that cell tower.

7 Because, again, we really need
8 the cell service in that area of town.
9 There's virtually no service, and I'm sure
10 once AT&T puts up the tower, they'll be glad
11 to lease part of that tower to Verizon or
12 some of the other carriers to, you know, to
13 boost their signal, too.

14 So thanks for your time and
15 thanks for your service.

16 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you.
17 Regina Picard.

18 REGINA PICARD: Good evening.
19 Thank you for the opportunity to express my
20 concerns to the committee -- or the Council,
21 I should say. Right?

22 I live at the end of the Deer
23 Run Trail. I saw the balloon out my backdoor
24 today and wasn't happy to see it with the
25 proposal of the tower.

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1 Originally, my concerns had
2 been about health and that really seemed to
3 be taking a backseat to all the other issues
4 that were presented at the three o'clock
5 meeting and things like that.

6 Representative Luxenberg kind
7 of explained the PUD, which I was going to go
8 into that a little bit, too. We're 168
9 units, a planned unit development. We're
10 responsible for taking care of the exterior
11 of our properties. So -- and we're a nice
12 tight community.

13 I mean, we walk in the street.
14 The kids play in the street. We walk down
15 the sidewalks. We interact with our
16 neighbors, and we're there to help each other
17 out. It's what I grew up, as what a
18 neighborhood is, and it's really nice. And
19 the concerns that we have of opening the end
20 of Deer Run to access this site would just
21 really be catastrophic for our environment
22 during the construction process.

23 Some of our units have
24 concrete issues. Some of our residents have
25 been able to mediate that, spending thousands

6 (Pages 119 to 122)

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1 of dollars to fix those issues, and they're
2 concerned with the big trucks coming through
3 with the construction phase -- is a big
4 concern for a lot of the residents there that
5 do have these construction issues -- I mean,
6 concrete issues.

7 I've met Jerry and Mitch,
8 Jerry's nephew, several times when they were
9 cutting down the trees. They represented to
10 me that that was just kind of normal cleaning
11 stuff out -- this was in 2013 -- that they
12 normally do that and that there was no plans
13 to do anything other than farm on the
14 property.

15 Last year when they were doing
16 the surveying, again, we talked to Jerry and
17 said, "You know, what's going on?"

18 And he's -- again, he just
19 reassured us that there was nothing but
20 farming going on on the property. It wasn't
21 until January 3rd when we drove by the sign
22 and saw the posting that the tower was going
23 up. And we thought it would be closer to
24 Lydall Street.

25 And when we found out that it

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1 I read the environmental
2 report, which was nice. It was good. It
3 concerned the frogs and the turtles and the
4 salamanders and -- but living in the
5 neighborhood, I get to know my animals. We
6 have a very large bat colony or colonies that
7 live in the area. From my research, they can
8 be impacted by the radiation emitted from the
9 towers.

10 Last year was the first year
11 in, I don't know how many years, we had
12 bumblebees, lots of bumblebees. And in the
13 past years before that it was just a very
14 few, very, very few, and we had a nice return
15 of those. And it's my understanding that
16 they can also be affected by radiation from
17 the towers.

18 We have hawks, we have
19 red-tailed hawks that nested there. We had
20 the sharp-shinned hawks. We have the marsh
21 hawks or also known as the northern harriers.
22 We have owls across the field. So we have a
23 lot of other wildlife that -- my concern is,
24 okay, we have the tower. What is the impact
25 going to be on the wildlife?

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1 was going to be 452 feet from my neighbor's
2 house it was, like, why so close? Why? Why?
3 I mean, and you know, he's got 64 acres
4 there, and there's got to be a better place.
5 I'm hoping that the siting committee will
6 consider that and move it away from our
7 neighborhood.

8 I don't deny that there is a
9 need for cell service. We don't get cell
10 service half the time. I walk down my
11 driveway, or I walk down the street just to
12 get cell service. So there is a need for the
13 cell service in that area. And just like
14 anybody else, they probably don't want the
15 tower in their backyard either.

16 So, again, with a 64-acre
17 parcel, I'm just hoping that if Jerry is
18 willing to move it somewhere else, and if
19 Jerry is not willing that there are other
20 options. There are other sites. 600 Lydall
21 Street, it's a small one-acre parcel of land.
22 It's right around the corner. It's actually
23 on the other side of the street, which may
24 suffice for what American Tower would like to
25 do, to build the tower.

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1 The deer, the coyotes, the
2 fisher cats, they're all pretty adaptable,
3 but if, I mean, if a bird is used to flying
4 in certain ways, I mean, I know that there's
5 a certain mortality rate with the birds and
6 towers. So that's another concern.

7 The field hosts milkweed. We
8 have monarch butterflies come through, and
9 they're becoming more and more endangered.

10 So, for my health, and more to
11 the animal's health, to my neighborhood's
12 benefits -- and the depreciation value.
13 According to the Appraisal Journal between --
14 property values near the cell towers are
15 usually 5 to 10 percent lower. We've already
16 taken a hit over the past few years, and I'd
17 really hate to see any more of a hit.
18 According to the Journal, it also depreciates
19 5 to 20 percent. Again, it probably depends
20 on where you live.

21 My neighbors and I got
22 together and we -- after the notice we saw on
23 the third, we got together and we put
24 together a petition. In that week and a half
25 time, we've been able to garner 141

7 (Pages 123 to 126)

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1 signatures. I don't know who I should be
2 giving this to.
3 Thank you. We respectfully
4 request the Council consider an alternate
5 site than right -- 400 feet from our home.
6 I'm sure that if it was 400 feet from your
7 home, you may have a couple questions about
8 that, or may want to consider it moving a
9 couple hundred feet up the field if that was
10 a viable option.

11 Thank you very much for your
12 time.

13 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you.
14 Robin -- and I apologize if I
15 miss pronounce your last name -- is it
16 Hagdorn or Hagedorn?

17 ROBIN HAGEDORN: Close enough.

18 THE CHAIRPERSON: And spell it
19 so the stenographer -- to make sure he gets
20 it right, please.

21 ROBIN HAGEDORN: You want me
22 to spell it? It's H-a-g-e-d-o-r-n.

23 Good evening, ladies and
24 gentlemen. Thank you for the opportunity to
25 speak here tonight. I reside at 146 Deer Run

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1 this is right in the middle of a watershed
2 area. Now the health department issued a
3 report that pretty much stated if you're
4 going to do this, then there's a number of
5 circumstances that are going to have to be
6 met. And my question would be, once this
7 tower is up, who's going to enforce this? I
8 know there's a provision for access to the
9 tower to inspect it, but you know, we all
10 kind of know that doesn't always happen the
11 way that it's drawn out.

12 But this thing is here and
13 it's in our lives and it's for people that
14 live in this area and have our families in
15 this area. And, you know, if we're going to
16 do this, I think it's something we want to
17 make sure it's the right thing to do.

18 Is this the best place for
19 this tower? I don't know. I think,
20 personally, probably not. There's a site
21 over where Comcast used to be where they have
22 the big old satellite dishes right down the
23 street on 44. It would seem to me that would
24 be a perfect spot. They've moved out of
25 there. It's just open empty space.

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1 Trail, and I am new to that area. I've lived
2 in and out of Manchester for a good amount of
3 time during my life, but I, basically, just
4 found this area last year, and my wife and I
5 went here.

6 And this property is like it
7 was built just for us. It's perfect. It's a
8 great neighborhood. It's quiet. It's just
9 everything that we all wanted to retire to.
10 I've spent 40 years in government service, 22
11 and half years with the Town of South Windsor
12 and 17 with the State of Connecticut.

13 And one of the things that
14 I've found in working for the government is
15 oftentimes when something is done and it
16 turns out not to be the correct thing to do,
17 there often is not -- to be an answer to
18 correct it. It's like trying to unring a
19 bell. And in looking at the report for this,
20 this tower -- and I'm a gadget guy. You know
21 in fact, I have AT&T service, and it's good
22 where I am. In fact, it's so good, I don't
23 even have a home phone. It's perfect, very
24 reliable.

25 But my concern would be, one,

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1 I think once you start putting
2 something like this in a residential
3 neighborhood, you really have to take the
4 concerns of the people that are there as
5 probably the top priority for this. And I
6 believe they -- other than extreme
7 circumstances, they would override the needs
8 of, you know, having a convenience of a cell
9 tower. You know, landlines are antiquated,
10 but they still work.

11 Thank you for giving me the
12 opportunity to speak. I hope we will take --
13 consider this carefully and make a good
14 decision that's good for everybody. Thank
15 you.

16 THE CHAIRPERSON: Those are
17 all the people that have signed up, at least
18 that we have. Is there anybody else who
19 would like to speak?

20 Please come up, give us your
21 name, spell your last name so we make sure we
22 have it.

23 MAUREEN COUVARES: Maureen
24 Couvares, C-o-u-v-a-r-e-s.

25 And I am an employee of the

8 (Pages 127 to 130)

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1 Town. I also own the notorious property at
2 277 Deer Run Trail. And if anyone wants
3 better cell service, my house may be up for
4 sale soon. The bad thing is that I get
5 excellent service.

6 But I was at the balloon test
7 this afternoon, and I have a completely
8 unobstructed view of the cell tower from my
9 backyard. I've lived there for 17 years.
10 I've worked very hard on my property. And
11 the devaluation, it's devastating to me if I
12 want to put this on the market.

13 One question that came up this
14 afternoon that I didn't hear answered was
15 when we look at the surrounding cell towers,
16 particularly the one on Lake Street, is how
17 come that's not being looked at as increasing
18 the height for better service? I didn't hear
19 that addressed. And that's a concern of
20 mine.

21 I mean, there are plenty of
22 cell towers in the area. Minimally, I would
23 hope that they would look at an alternative
24 site. I know Steve Cassano brought up the
25 trust, the land trust at Risley Reservoir,

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1 everyone we spoke to was in disagreement with
2 the proposal at the proposed site on 701
3 Lydall Street.

4 And most everyone agrees that
5 there are cell phone issues. Again, you
6 know, "compromise" being the word of the day.
7 Looking for other opportunities elsewhere in
8 the community, looking to leverage some of
9 the other 26 cell towers within the
10 Manchester community to either boost signals
11 or increase the height of those to offer the
12 service that we all want at the end of the
13 day.

14 You know, I work in the
15 insurance industry. You know, you think
16 about the health risks. Yeah, there haven't
17 been a lot of studies to date. That's not
18 the say that there's been studies that's have
19 necessarily proven that there aren't issues.
20 There just haven't been a lot of studies to
21 date. I know you're not necessarily able to
22 take all the health considerations into
23 effect, but -- or into account.

24 But in the insurance industry
25 a lot of things take a while to develop. You

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1 which I would hope you would seriously take
2 into consideration.

3 So just that's my input from
4 the owner of the most endangered property
5 there. So thank you.

6 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you.
7 Is there else would like to speak?

8 Okay. All right. Again,
9 please give us and spell your last name.
10 Thank you.

11 KYLE WENTWORTH: My name is
12 Kyle Wentworth, W-e-n-t-w-o-r-t-h. I'm a
13 summer resident of the Knollwood development.
14 I reside at 162 Knollwood road so we actually
15 found about this earlier on in November
16 because we were one of the abutting
17 properties to the proposed development. We
18 very quickly kind of banded together as a
19 neighborhood, walked the neighborhood, my
20 wife and I.

21 And we, too, actually were
22 able to garner quite a few signatures in
23 petition of the proposed cell tower. And
24 I'll hand those off to you in a moment, as
25 well. But the overwhelming response from

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1 think about asbestos. You think about lead
2 paint. It wasn't day one we knew there were
3 issues. It took quite a while to actually
4 understand that. And cell phone reception is
5 going to be -- or cell phone radio
6 frequencies are going to be one of those as
7 well.

8 So, you know, you may not
9 necessarily feel the pain of it today.
10 Twenty years down the line, we might be
11 telling a different story there. So I
12 certainly encourage you to take that into
13 account to the degree you can.

14 And, obviously, you know, just
15 reiterating that the home value conversation.
16 You know, I've heard everything from 5 to
17 20 percent. And a lot of times it's not
18 necessarily the devaluation in you home value
19 that's the biggest concern. It's just even
20 getting people in your door to look at the
21 house once they know that there's a tower
22 right next door.

23 You know, we just bought our
24 house three years ago, and we looked at
25 number of sites within the Manchester and the

9 (Pages 131 to 134)

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1 Glastonbury and surrounding areas. And if
2 there's a tower next door that was an
3 immediate no sale, and we turned around and
4 we walked away. So I think, you know, the
5 home values can't be stated enough especially
6 when you have properties that are within
7 400 feet of the location. So, again,
8 strongly, strongly urge you to look for a
9 compromise at another nearby. So...

10 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you.
11 Is there anybody else? Yes?
12 Please.

13 JUDITH ROSE: My name is
14 Judith Rose, R-o-s-e. I didn't intend to
15 speak, but thank you for letting me.

16 I was at the three o'clock
17 meeting. I didn't sign the petition to begin
18 with. I wanted to hear what was said by the
19 company that was going to be putting this
20 tower up. At the end of the meeting, I
21 signed the petition.

22 I heard a lot of maybes,
23 possibly, perhaps, plus or minus, an awful a
24 lot of ambiguity in their statements this
25 afternoon. And it brought some real concerns

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1 that the other people that were here and at
2 the three o'clock meeting would agree with
3 me, that there was not a whole lot of
4 encouragement as to their having delved into
5 that.

6 And, lastly, I like to say
7 that if Mr. Stevenson wants to have better
8 cell surface, he's welcome to invite them to
9 put it in his neighborhood.

10 Thank you very much for your
11 time.

12 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. The
13 Council announces that we will continue the
14 evidentiary portion of this hearing at the
15 Council's offices at 10 Franklin Square, the
16 Hearing Room 1, in New Britain, on Tuesday,
17 March 3rd this year, at 1 p.m. And among the
18 questions and issues that we'll be exploring
19 further are some of those that were raised at
20 the evidentiary hearing earlier today, which
21 have been noted by a number of people.

22 Please note that anyone who
23 has not become a party or intervenor, but who
24 desires his or her views to be made known to
25 the Council, may file written statements with

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1 to me.

2 Any new development project,
3 like a cell tower, should preserve both
4 residential and business property values.
5 And my concern is, does this proposed cell
6 tower affect public health and safety, is it
7 compatible with the neighboring uses, does it
8 create a nuisance, does it hinder further
9 development of the community? In my opinion,
10 a cell tower put where they propose to put
11 it, will devalue my home.

12 I refinanced a couple years
13 ago. And for the first time in 25 years, I
14 had to take out PMI insurance because my
15 value of my house had gone down so much.
16 I've also read reviews that say there's a
17 devaluation of 15 to 20 percent. And a lot
18 of us, maybe most of us in that area, are
19 retirees and this is the only thing we have.
20 And I ask you to please take that into
21 consideration.

22 There are other sites. I
23 don't believe, after hearing them this
24 afternoon, that they have significantly
25 looked into alternate sites. And I think

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1 the Council, certainly, up until March 3rd.
2 Copies of the transcript, again, of the
3 hearing will be filed at the Manchester,
4 Bolton and Vernon Town Clerk Offices.

5 And I hereby declare the
6 hearing adjourned, and thank you all for your
7 participation and drive home safely.

8 (Whereupon, the above
9 proceedings were adjourned at 7:41 p.m.)
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10 (Pages 135 to 138)

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1 CERTIFICATE
2 I hereby certify that the foregoing 37
3 pages are a complete and accurate
4 computer-aided transcription of my original
5 verbatim notes taken of the Public Hearing in
6 Re: DOCKET NO. 453, AMERICAN TOWER
7 CORPORATION AND NEW CINGULAR WIRELESS PCS,
8 LLC APPLICATION FOR A CERTIFICATE OF
9 ENVIRONMENTAL COMPATIBILITY AND PUBLIC NEED
10 FOR THE CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE, AND
11 OPERATION OF A TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITY
12 LOCATED AT MANCHESTER TAX ASSESSOR MAP 133,
13 BLOCK 3700, LOT 701, 701 LYDALL STREET,
14 MANCHESTER, CONNECTICUT, which was held
15 before ROBERT STEIN, Chairperson, at the
16 Lincoln Center Hearing Room, 494 Main Street,
17 Manchester, Connecticut, on January 20, 2015.
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22
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24
25

Robert G. Dixon, CVR-M 857
Court Reporter
UNITED REPORTERS, INC.
90 Brainard Road, Suite 103
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